(d) whether Government would sanction the above assistance to all the dispensaries located in the State to encourage ISM & H?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (d) During the year 2002-03 an amount of Rs. 15.00 Lakhs @ Rs. 25,000/- per dispensary had been sanctioned for supply of essential ISM & H drugs to 60 dispensaries of Karnataka State. A proposal dated 6.12.2003 received from the Government of Karnataka for the year 2003-04 calls for financial assistance to 574 dispensaries of ISM&H. The proposal will be dealt with keeping in view the budget provisions and schematic stipulations.

Deemed University status to Medical and Health Institutes

1309. SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the autonomous institutes of health and medical field declared as Deemed Universities;

(b) whether there is any such institute declared as a Deemed University in Karnataka; and

(c) whether it is a fact that a proposal for converting Sri Jayadeva Institute of Cardiology and Kidwai Institute of Oncology as Deemed Universities, is pending with Government?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) As per the University Grants Commission following four institutions of Health and Medical field have been declared as Deemed Universities:

(i) National Brain Research Centre, Gurgaon.

(ii) National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences, Bangalore.

(iii) Paravara Institute of Medical Sciences, Loni District Ahmednagar;

(iv) Sri Ramachandra Medical College and Research Institute, Chennai;

(b) There is only one institute *i.e.* 'National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences, Bangalore' which has been conferred Deemed University status in Karnataka.

(c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

AIDS control

1310. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal and Sri Lanka have been more successful in curbing HIV infection in comparison to India;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government have formulated any new scheme to effectively curb the HIV infection; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) UN AIDS/WHO had released a report: on "AIDS epidemic update" in December 2003. As contained in chapter on "Asia and the Pacific", the report highlighted the current status of HIV/AIDS epidemic in various countries including India, Nepal, Pakistan and Bangladesh. As per this report no conclusions can be drawn that these countries have been more successful in curbing HIV infection in comparison to India. Rather, the report forecasted the potential risk of widespread epidemics in these countries.

(c) and (d) In order to prevent and control the spread of HIV/AIDS in India, Government of India has launched a comprehensive National AIDS Control Programme, currently under implementation throughout the country as a centrally sponsored scheme under following components:—

- Preventive interventions for high-risk populations through targeted interventions adopting a multi-pronged strategy including peer counselling, treatment of sexually transmitted infections and behaviour change communication.